

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 539
By Boner

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Coach Jeff Forehand and the 1997 Goodpasture Christian School baseball team, Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Class A state champions.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is very proud to specially recognize exceptional high school baseball teams that work hard, perform with extraordinary diligence and rare dedication, make necessary sacrifices and win championships; and

WHEREAS, the great 1997 Goodpasture Christian School baseball team has impressed all who saw them play, winning the coveted Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Class A state championship; and

WHEREAS, Goodpasture beat Davidson Academy, 11-5, in the title game, to win the District 8 Championship; and

WHEREAS, this tremendously talented team won the prestigious Region 4 title with victories against Donelson Christian Academy 7-1 and Davidson Academy 10-0; and

WHEREAS, in the quarter final round of the state tournament, Goodpasture beat Upperman 2-1; and;

WHEREAS, in tough State Tournament action, the Cougars defeated Summertown High School 10-5, in the first round; Jackson Christian School 10-9, in the second round and Jackson Christian School 5-2, in the finals; and

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WHEREAS, this exemplary team compiled an enviable 31-8 overall season record, an outstanding winning percentage of .780; and

WHEREAS, highly regarded and respected Coach Jeff Forehand was named Class A State Coach of the Year. His capable Assistant Coach was Scott Ballard; and

WHEREAS, the team leaders were: sensational junior pitcher/infielder Ryan Abrams, who was chosen Tennessee Coaches Association Class A Mr. Baseball, Associated Press All-State, and All-State Tournament; senior catcher Scott Lightfoot, who was selected Associated Press All-State and All-State Tournament; senior outfielder Brandon O'Neal, who was recognized as All-State Tournament and senior pitcher/outfielder Kory Bellar, who was named All-State Tournament; and

WHEREAS, the team also had the rare distinction of having five players receive collegiate scholarships: Scott Lightfoot, Motlow State Community College; Brandon O'Neal, David Lipscomb; Kory Bellar, Itawamba Community College; senior pitcher Justin Bixenman, Freed-Hardeman University and senior infielder/outfielder Stephen Russell, Jackson State Community College; and

WHEREAS, each of the additional players made a significant contribution to the success the team enjoyed. The other players were: senior outfielder Matt Moore, senior infielder Phil Anthony, junior second baseman Will Treby, junior catcher Phillip Hutson, junior catcher Kyle Pitt, junior outfielder Adam Walker, junior pitcher/outfielder Tracy Vetetoe, junior outfielder Matt Johnson, junior pitcher/third baseman, Ben Sweet, junior first baseman Chip Johnson, sophomore pitcher/second baseman Gregg Whittaker, sophomore outfielder Stephen Sundstrom, and freshman pitcher/infielder Ryan Boyer; and

WHEREAS, the team has been strongly encouraged by Superintendent John McCarley and Principal/Athletic Director Clint Parnell; and

WHEREAS, the hard-working support personnel, trainer Brian Bice, student trainer Clint Sanders, and managers Julie West, Jill Jarrett, and Jenny Nichols, have done an excellent job; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we pause in our deliberations to specially recognize this accomplished team; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor and congratulate Coach Jeff Forehand and the 1997 Goodpasture Christian School baseball team on winning the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Class A state championship and wish them well in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That appropriate copies of this resolution be duly prepared and inscribed for presentation to the school and each person named above, with this final clause omitted from such copies.